

# State of Connecticut

## SENATE

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**SENATOR JOHN A. KISSEL**  
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July 29, 2009

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**MEMBER**  
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Acting Commissioner Brian K. Murphy  
Department of Correction  
24 Wolcott Hill Road  
Wethersfield, CT 06109

Dear Acting Commissioner Murphy,

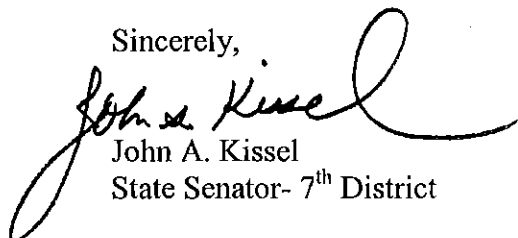
As you know, last night there was yet another instance of violence at Northern Correctional Institute in Somers, this time resulting in the death of an inmate. In July alone I have been notified of three separate instances of violence taking place at Northern and I believe that it is time for the Department of Correction to conduct a top to bottom investigation of safety policies at that facility.

Northern is supposed to have the highest level of security of all our correctional facilities, yet the violence that routinely occurs there appears to be far more frequent than at any of the five other facilities in my district. I appreciate the hard work of the Department of Correction and our correctional officers, but something needs to be done quickly to address this problem of escalating violence.

There needs to be an immediate and comprehensive investigation into the safety plan at Northern. Correctional staff should feel safe going to work and for the prison facility to operate smoothly and efficiently, inmates also need to feel a certain level of safety.

Thank you for taking the time to address my concerns and I look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

Sincerely,



John A. Kissel  
State Senator- 7<sup>th</sup> District

cc: Governor M. Jodi Rell  
Rep. Penny Bacchiochi